

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop: S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



JUL 31 2015

Mikki Stier
Medicaid Director
Iowa Department of Human Services
100 Army Post Road
Des Moines, IA 50315

Dear Ms. Stier:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving Iowa's request to amend its three-year Medicaid demonstrations, "Iowa Wellness Plan" (Project Number 11-W-00289/5) and "Iowa Marketplace Choice" (Project Number 11-W-00288/5) to extend the waiver of the state's responsibility to assure non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) through March 31, 2016.

When CMS originally approved this authority, it was scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2014 with the possibility of extending based on an evaluation of the impact on access to care. After reviewing initial data on the impact of the waiver on access, CMS and Iowa agreed to extend the NEMT waiver through July 31, 2015. At that time, CMS and Iowa agreed that the state would evaluate the impact of the waiver through a fall 2014 beneficiary survey. The survey's results showed that 15 percent of Wellness Plan beneficiaries in the last six months had an unmet need for transportation to or from a health care visit, a percentage that is higher than that for beneficiaries eligible under state plan authority who receive the NEMT benefit. However, this difference falls short of statistical significance. In addition, other survey data identified that beneficiaries who do not receive NEMT are more likely to have some need for assistance to travel to health visits due to usually or always relying on others for transportation in comparison to Medicaid state plan beneficiaries. This finding was statistically significant.

In light of these results, CMS would like the state to continue to evaluate the impact of this waiver. We are extending this authority through March 31, 2016. During this time, we would like the state to conduct another survey for us to consider with the previous survey results. We would also like the state to submit, as part of its interim evaluation report, some additional analyses on the impact of this authority. CMS will use these results to evaluate any request by the state to extend authority for the waiver.

This amendment is approved in accordance with section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act (the Act) as of the date of this letter. CMS' approval of these demonstration amendments is conditioned upon compliance with the enclosed sets of STCs defining the nature, character, and extent of anticipated federal involvement in the project. The award is subject to our receiving your written acknowledgement of the award and acceptance of these STCs within 30 days of the date of this letter. A copy of the STCs, waivers, and expenditure authorities are enclosed.

Page 2 – Ms. Mikki Stier

Your project officer for these demonstrations is Leila Ashkeboussi. She is available to answer any questions concerning your section 1115 demonstration Ms. Ashkeboussi's contact information is as follows:

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Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services
Mail Stop: S2-01-16
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Telephone: (410) 786-3135
Facsimile: (410) 786-5882
E-mail: Leila.Ashkeboussi@cms.hhs.gov

Official communications regarding program matters should be sent simultaneously to Ms. Ashkeboussi and to Mr. James Scott, Associate Regional Administrator, in our Kansas City Regional Office. Mr. Scott's contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Richard Bolling Federal Building
601 East 12th Street
Room 355
Kansas City, MO 64106-2808
Telephone: (816) 426-6417
Email: James.Scott1@cms.hhs.gov

If you have questions regarding this approval, please contact Mr. Eliot Fishman, Director, State Demonstrations Group, Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services, at (410) 786-5647.

Sincerely,

Vikki Wachino
Director

Enclosures

cc: James Scott, ARA, CMS Region VII